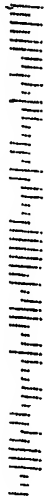


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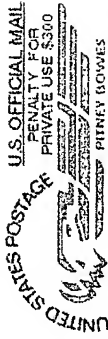
AUG 14 2006

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

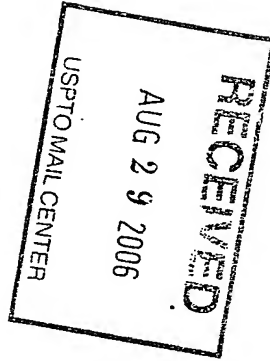
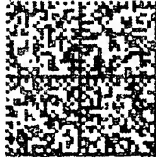
If Undeliverable Return in Ten Days

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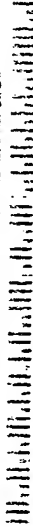


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WEST900* 554022038 1506 12 08/23/06
FORWARD TIME EXP RIN TO SEND
: WESTMAN CHAMPLIN AND KELLY PA
900 2ND AVE S STE 1400
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-3244

RETURN TO SENDER



PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590

08/18/2006

Joseph R. Kelly
Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A.
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3319

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,478	11/13/2003	Judy Lynn Westby	STL 8646	2370

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS PATH CONNECTION OVERHEAD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$0	\$0	\$1400	11/20/2006

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DU, THUAN N	2116	710-040000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
 1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,478	11/13/2003	Judy Lynn Westby	STL 8646	2370

7590 08/18/2006

Joseph R. Kelly
Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A.
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER

DU, THUAN N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2116

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Determination of Patent Term Extension or Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

A reissue patent is for "the unexpired part of the term of the original patent." See 35 U.S.C. 251. Accordingly, the above-identified reissue application is not eligible for Patent Term Extension or Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/714,478	WESTBY ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thuan N. Du	2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on March 1, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/1/05</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

Reasons for Allowance

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,767) discloses a system and method for arbitrating and providing control of a bus for a first device to complete transfer a predetermined amount of data before a re-arbitration.

b. Pritty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,819,229) teaches an interrupt system wherein the interruption depends on the amount of untransmitted data. The interrupt will be ignored (maintain control of the communications channel) as long as a predetermined amount of data (less than 10% of the total data or a fixed number of bytes) left for transmission.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art for the following reasons.

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious the arbitration-and-control apparatus configured to arbitrate for control of the serial communications path and, after control is achieved, maintain control of the serial communications path as long as at least a first predetermined amount of data is available within control of the first serial device, wherein the first predetermined amount of data within control of the first serial device includes at least some data not available for transfer to the serial communications path.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2116

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan N. Du whose telephone number is (571) 272-3673. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Wednesday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670.

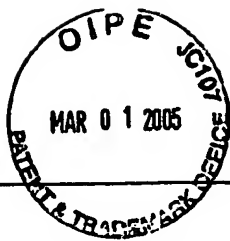
Central TC telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

The fax number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).


LYNNE H. BROWNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Thuan N. Du
April 26, 2005



FORM PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No.: S104.12-0060	Appl. No.: 10/714,478
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	First Named Inventor:	
	Judy Lynn Westby	
	Filing Date	Group Art:
	November 13, 2003	2116

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
JS	AA	4,486,739	12/1984	Franazek et al.	340	347
JS	AB	4,819,229	4/1989	Pritty et al.	370	89
JS	AC	5,168,568	12/1992	Thayer et al.	710	125

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes No
JS	07028746	1/1995	Japan			

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

JS	AD	"Fibre, Channel, Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL), REV 4.5", American National Standard for Information Technology draft proposed, ANSI X3.272-199 X, (June 1, 1995).
JS	AE	"Fibre, Channel, Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL-2), REV 6.3", American National Standard for Information Technology draft proposed, ANSI X3.XXX-199 X, (May 29, 1998).
JS	AF	"Fibre, Channel, Physical and Signaling Interface (FC-PH), REV 4.3", American National Standard for Information Systems draft, ANSI X3.230-199X, (Jun. 1. 1994)
JS	AG	"Information Systems-dpANS Fibre Channel Protocol for SCSI", American National Standard-draft proposed, X3.269-199X revision 12, (Dec. 4, 1995).
JS	AH	Georgiou, J.J., et al. "Scalable Protocol Engine for High-Bandwidth Communications", IEEE pp. 1121-1126, (1997).
EXAMINER: Thomas An		DATE CONSIDERED: 4/23/05

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No.: S104.12-0060	Appl. No.: 10/714,478
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	First Named Inventor:	
	Judy Lynn Westby	
	Filing Date	Group Art:
	November 13, 2003	2116

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
BA	5,260,933	11/1993	Rouse	370	14	
BB	5,535,035	7/1996	DeFoster et al.	359	161	
BC	5,598,541	1/1997	Malladi	395	286	
BD	5,671,425	4/1997	Anderson	371	10.2	
BE	5,619,497	4/1997	Gallagher et al.	370	394	
BF	5,619,647	4/1997	Jardine	709	240	
BG	5,638,518	6/1997	Malladi	395	200.21	
BH	5,663,724	9/1997	Westby	341	59	
BI	5,694,615	12/1997	Thapar et al.	395	822	
BJ	5,758,081	5/1998	Aytac	395	200.41	
BK	5,761,534	6/1998	Lundberg et al.	395	870	
BL	5,761,705	6/1998	DeKoning et al.	711	113	
BM	5,764,931	6/1998	Schmahl et al.	395	287	
BN	5,764,972	6/1998	Crouse et al.	395	601	
BO	5,768,530	6/1998	Sandorfi	395	200.63	
BP	5,768,623	6/1998	Judd et al.	395	857	

EXAMINER: *Thuan Du*

DATE CONSIDERED: *4/23/05*

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No.: S104.12-0060	Appl. No.: 10/714,478
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	First Named Inventor:	
	Judy Lynn Westby	
	Filing Date	Group Art:
	November 13, 2003	2116

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
JS	CA 5,778,426	7/1998	DeKoning et al.	711	122	
JS	CB 5,781,801	7/1998	Flanagan et al.	395	876	
JS	CC 5,787,242	7/1998	DeKoning et al.	395	182.03	
JS	CD 5,787,450	7/1998	Diedrich et al.	707	513	
JS	CE 5,790,733	8/1998	DeKoning et al.	395	182.04	
JS	CF 5,790,792	8/1998	Dudgeon et al.	395	200.42	
JS	CG 5,802,080	9/1998	Westby	371	53	
JS	CH 5,805,788	9/1998	Johnson	395	182.04	
JS	CI 5,805,920	9/1998	Sprenkle et al.	395	821	
JS	CJ 5,807,261	9/1998	Benaron et al.	600	473	
JS	CK 5,809,328	9/1998	Nogales et al.	395	825	
JS	CL 5,812,564	9/1998	Bonke et al.	371	40.1	
JS	CM 5,812,754	9/1998	Lui et al.	395	182.04	
JS	CN 5,815,662	9/1998	Ong	395	200.47	
JS	CO 5,819,054	10/1998	Ninomiya et al.	395	308	
JS	CP 5,819,111	10/1998	Davies et al.	710	29	
JS	CQ 5,822,143	10/1998	Cloke et al.	360	65	
JS	CR 5,822,782	10/1998	Humlícek et al.	711	170	
JS	CS 5,901,280	5/1999	Mizuno et al.	395	182.04	
JS	CT 5,930,483	7/1999	Cummings et al.	710	107	
JS	CU 6,012,128	1/2000	Birns et al.	711	163	

EXAMINER:

Thman Sn

DATE CONSIDERED:

4/23/05

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/714,478	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WESTBY ET AL	
	Examiner Thuan N. Du	Art Unit 2116	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6,115,767	09-2000	Hashimoto et al.	710/107
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

08/18/2006

Joseph R. Kelly
Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A.
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER

DU, THUAN N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2116

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,478	11/13/2003	Judy Lynn Westby	STL 8646	2370
TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS PATH CONNECTION OVERHEAD				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$0	\$0	\$1400	11/20/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.